

## **Moniz-Carroll, Rhonda**

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**From:** Caithlin De Marrais <cdemarrais@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 10, 2015 9:56 PM  
**To:** JudTestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony to CT General Assembly

**Testimony to CT General Assembly Judiciary Committee in support of:**  
*SB 650 An Act Concerning Temporary Restraining Orders*  
*HB 6848 An Act Protecting Victims of Domestic Violence*  
*HB 6962 An Act Concerning Firearm Safety*

Mr Chairmen and members of the Judiciary Committee,

My name is Caithlin De Marrais. I am a mother, wife, CT native and gun violence prevention activist. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to voice my support of SB 650 and HB 6848 and HB 6962.

I believe the passage of these bills will help reduce gun violence in CT. I am here today because I am heartbroken every time I read about another wife, a mother, a sister, another woman gunned down by her abusive partner because of a loophole in the system which allows domestic abusers to keep their guns even after a temporary protective order is filed.

We know all too well in CT what that horrific kind of violence looks like. On May 7, 2014, 32-year-old Oxford mother of two, Lori Jackson was shot and killed by her abusive husband using a gun he legally possessed because a permanent protective order was not yet in place.

Gun violence is not a problem unique to CT. Domestic violence happens in every state. But here in CT we believe we can do something to reduce the horrifying toll gun violence takes on women, children and families.

I am not a stranger to intimidation by guns. When I was a younger woman I was in an abusive relationship with a gun owner. He kept one of his guns unsecured in the back of his closet. He took it out to show me and intimidate me. I got away from him by moving away and telling him never to contact me again.

Now I am a mother with a kind and responsible husband and we have six year old son and a two year old daughter. When my daughter was a baby I brought her with me to this state capitol on many different occasions to show my support for stronger gun violence prevention legislation and to thank legislators who helped pass those laws. My daughter is an independent "big" girl now and if I had brought her now she would definitely be hogging the microphone.

I am also here to show my support regarding HB 6962. This is common sense legislation. I always ask when my children go to play at a friend's house if there are firearms in the house and if so how are they stored. I support laws which require the safe storage of firearms from all persons other than the gun owner. With rights come responsibilities.

My children are the reason I support this legislation and the reason I will continue to stand up and be counted among the millions of CT residents who want to see the passage of common sense legislation to reduce gun violence in our state.

Sincerely,  
Caithlin De Marrais  
Easton, CT